

FURTHER NOTES ON EPITONIUM FALLACIOSUM

BY A. M. STRONG

In THE NAUTILUS for July, 1931, W. P. Woodring has a note in which he designates a lectotype for *Epitonium fallaciosum* Dall, 1917, stating that in doing this he "restores" the name to nomenclatorial standing. While there is no question about the desirability of retaining old names wherever possible, in this case it is not possible to do so.

In order that a new specific name be valid it must be accompanied by a description, an illustration or a bibliographic reference. *E. fallaciosum* Dall, 1917, was proposed for the shell "commonly known from California as *S. hindsii* Cpr." with the following additional statement: "Carpenter described from Panama a species of *Nitidoscala* with 8 varices, under the name of *S. hindsii*. By some confusion he later transferred the name in 1865 to a well known shell from California which has 11 to 14 varices." No figure was given or any further description or bibliographic reference. The matter is fully discussed in the Transaction of the San Diego Society of Natural History to which Dr. Woodring refers. It is shown that the only published description of "*S. hindsii*" from California is that by Arnold in 1903 and that the shell he describes should take the name of *Epitonium tinctum* (Carpenter). Arnold's work has been extensively used by California conchologists ever since its publication and as it was largely based on Dall's identifications it may be taken as representing his opinion at that time. This was the shell "commonly known" as *S. hindsii* prior to 1917 and *E. fallaciosum* Dall is placed as a synonym under it. "A well known shell from California with 11 to 14 varices" can not be taken as a description as there are six or eight species of *Epitonium* from California with from 11 to 14 varices. One of the most common of these is *E. tinctum* (Carpenter). Dall in 1921 supplied a bibliographic reference, "Keep, West Coast Shells, p. 183, fig. 174", (1911) which is a figure of a mature specimen of *E. tinctum* (Carpenter).

If *E. fallaciosum* Dall, 1917, is not a synonym of *E. tinctum* (Carpenter), 1864, it must be taken that it is a substitute name for a California species misidentified by Carpenter as "*Scalaria hindsii*" and it clearly ranks only as a museum label name because it has no published data making it possible for conchologists to recognize it. It therefore would be a *nomen nudum*. Dr. Woodring's choice in 1931 of the paratype of *E. cooperi* Strong, 1930, for the lectotype of *E. fallaciosum* Dall makes the latter practically an exact synonym of the former.

NOTES AND NEWS

MR. D'ALTE WELCH has been appointed assistant in the Department of Mollusca in the Bishop Museum, Honolulu.

THE GENUS GOODRICHIA.—About the time I published this genus (1929), to include two new forms from the Cameroons, both Thiele and Spence figured new species that are apparently members of this same genus. In a modern study, Thiele has made a revision of the Melaniidae which includes all known members in systematic order (including the American Pleuroceridae, which is treated as a subfamily). Thiele places his new form under *Rhinomelania* which he considers a subgenus of *Potadoma*. *Rhinomelania* is entirely different from the figure he has given for his new form, and its affinities even to its proper family is still questioned. The following is a list of the known species of *Goodrichia*:

G. trochiformis Cl., 1929, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 69, p. 118, pl. 1, figs. 3-4 (Genoholotype).

G. pilsbryi Cl., 1929, Ibid, p. 119, figs. 5-6 (considered now as a full species).

G. angulata Thiele, 1928, *Potadoma* (*Rhinomelania*) *angulata* Th., Zool. Jahr. Abt. Sys. 55, p. 387, pl. 8, fig. 12.

G. nyongensis Spence, 1928, *Potadoma nyongensis* Sp., Jour. of Conch. 18, p. 215, pl. 2, figs. 1-3.